

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed May 4, 2006, has been carefully considered by Applicant. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments to the specification and claims.

Claims 1, 11, 13-14 and 16 are pending.

Claims 2-10, 12, 15 and 17-22 are cancelled.

Examiner Interview

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for extending the courtesy of an interview regarding the outstanding claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102. The Examiner has indicated that submission of an English translation of the priority document, Japanese Patent Application No. 2002-288166 is sufficient to overcome the cited references as long as the priority document provides proper support for the claims of the present application. As discussed further below, herewith Applicant submits an English translation of the aforementioned priority document.

Objection Under 35 U.S.C. §132(a)

The Amendment filed on February 14, 2006, has been objected to under 35 U.S.C. §132(a), which states that no amendment shall introduce new matter into the disclosure of the invention. By the present Amendment, application pages 8 and 9 are amended to delete the word "circumferential". As such, the rejection under §132(a) is believed overcome. No new matter is added by this amendment.

Claim Objections

Claims 1-4, 6-7, 11, 13-14, 16 and 18-22 are objected to because of various informalities. By the present Amendment, claims 2-4, 6-7, and 18-22 are cancelled, thus rendering the rejection regarding these claims moot.

Claims 1, 11 and 13 are amended to clearly claim the pipe and connector in combination with the anti-rotation device.

Claim 1 is amended to recite "the opposite axial end of the connector housing".

Claim 11 is amended to recite "the opposite axial end of the connector housing".

Claim 16 is amended to recite the “opposite axial end of the connector housing”.
The objections set forth in the Office Action are thus believed obviated.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 11 and 16 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. By the present Amendment, the word “circumferential” is deleted from claims 11 and 16. The rejections under §112, first paragraph, are therefore believed overcome.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1, 2, 4, 13, 14 and 16 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Inoue U.S. Patent No. 6,860,515. Claims 1, 2, 4, 11, 13, 14, 16 and 21 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Takayanagi U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0218334.

By the present Amendment, claims 2, 4 and 21 are cancelled, thus rendering the rejections regarding these claims moot.

Herewith, Applicant submits an English translation of the priority document, Japanese Patent Application No. 2002-288166. The enclosed priority document was filed on September 30, 2002, which is prior to the earliest U.S. filing date of both of the cited references (Inoue U.S. Patent No. 6,860,515 and Takayanagi U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0218334). Also enclosed is a statement attesting to the accuracy of the enclosed translation. The priority document provides clear support for the pending claims. Therefore, the rejections under §102(e) are believed obviated and withdrawal of the rejections under §102(e) is respectfully requested in accordance with the indication provided during the Examiner Interview.

Conclusion

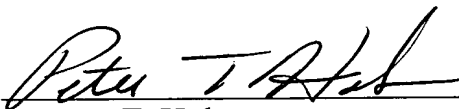
The present Application is thus believed in condition for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested.

Application No. 10/674,727
Amendment Dated September 26, 2006
Reply to Office Action of May 4, 2006

As this Application is currently under final rejection, the Examiner is respectfully asked to contact the undersigned attorney if there are any remaining formal issues to be resolved.

Respectfully submitted,

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